

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A bioreactor method of processing a fluent biomass ~~delivered to a tank under different conditions~~, involving either direct discharge of a waste sludge ~~and/or withdrawal of a cleansed effluent by membrane filtration, the improvement residing in comprising the steps of providing an internally dividing the divided tank into having a~~ volumetrically large chamber within which the fluent biomass is biologically treated and a volumetrically small chamber within which said membrane filtration is performed; lowering contamination of a separated portion of the biologically treated fluent biomass recycled from the large chamber of the tank into the small chamber of the tank by performing to undergo said membrane filtration therein; and in the small chamber of the tank; and effecting said withdrawal withdrawing from the small chamber as the cleansed effluent said portion of the wastewater after undergoing said membrane filtration as the cleansed effluent.

Claim 2. (Original) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said step of lowering the contamination is performed outside the tank by centrifugation.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim 2, wherein said step of withdrawing the cleansed effluent is interrupted under selective control, while the waste sludge is undergoing said direct discharge in by-pass relation to the small chamber.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said step of withdrawing the cleansed effluent is interrupted under selective control, while the waste sludge is undergoing said direct discharge in by-pass relation to the small chamber.

Claim 5. (Original) The method as defined in claim 4, wherein the fluent biomass is wastewater having bacteria and a concentration of solids therein establishing said contamination that is lowered within said portion thereof undergoing said membrane filtration.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (New). A method of processing contaminated wastewater delivered to a tank that is internally divided into volumetrically large and small chambers within which the wastewater respectively undergoes biological treatment and membrane filtration, the steps of: withdrawing the wastewater from the large chamber of the tank after undergoing said biological treatment therein so as to then undergo separation into wastewater portions; recycling one of said separated wastewater portions back into the large chamber of the tank after lowering contamination therein outside of the tank; alternatively recycling another of said wastewater portions into the small chamber of the tank to either undergo said membrane filtration therein or disposal thereof by discharge as a waste sludge; and withdrawing the recycled wastewater portion after undergoing said membrane filtration from the small chamber of the tank as a cleansed effluent.